

June 2003

Best Sellers -- Physics and Chemistry

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Recommended Citation

Crowell, Françoise (2003) "Best Sellers -- Physics and Chemistry," *Against the Grain*: Vol. 15: Iss. 3, Article 34.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.4133>

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Best Sellers — Physics and Chemistry

by **Françoise Crowell** (Manager, Collection Development, International Sales Division, YBP Library Services, 999 Maple Street, Contoocook, NH 03229; Phone: 800-258-3774 x.3270; Fax: 603-746-5628) <fcrowell@ybp.com>

Column Editor's Note: When I put together a best seller list in the sciences I usually find titles of general interest that I, a very non-scientist, might like to read. I was hoping to find that in the list of YBP top sellers in Physics and Chemistry, but though there are some general titles and some quirky ones (*The Physics of Hockey!*) the majority of the titles are scholarly, scientific works. What did surprise me was the number of titles on climatology. I should not be surprised at the number of climate related titles as I just shoveled a good two feet of snow from my driveway. Weather dominates our conversation; it is the first thing we want to hear about on the morning news. Weather is our constant reminder of the scientific laws of nature. Here are some titles to help direct your conversation and others to fill your shelves with those essential titles in Physics and Chemistry. — FC

Newman, William R. *Alchemy Tried In The Fire: Starkey, Boyle, and The Fate of Helmontian Chymistry*. Univ of Chicago Press 2002 \$40.00 Cloth 0226577112.

Brown, Donald A., 1944-. *American Heat: Ethical Problems With The United States' Response To Global Warming*. Rowman & Littlefield 2002 \$75.00 Cloth 0742512959.

McElroy, Michael B. *Atmospheric Environment: Effects of Human Activity*. Princeton Univ Press 2002 \$80.00 Cloth 0691006911.

Herken, Gregg, 1947-. *Brotherhood of The Bomb: The Tangled Lives and Loyalties of Robert Oppenheimer, Ernest Lawrence, and Edward Teller*. Henry Holt 2002 \$30.00 Cloth 0805065881.

Cambridge Companion To Newton; Ed. by I. Bernard Cohen. Cambridge Univ Press 2002 \$65.00 Cloth 0521651778.

Bromley, D. Allan (David Allan), 1926-. *Century of Physics*. Springer-Verlag 2002 \$59.95 Cloth 0387952470.

Climate Change 2001: Synthesis Report; Ed. by Robert T. Watson. Cambridge Univ Press 2001 \$110.00 Cloth 0521807700.

Climate Change Policy: A Survey; Ed. by Stephen H. Schneider. Island Press 2002 \$29.50 Paper 1559638818.

Computational Statistical Physics: From Billiards To Monte Carlo; Ed. by Karl Heinz Hoffmann. Springer-Verlag 2002 \$74.95 Cloth 3540421602.

Tavel, Morton, 1939-. *Contemporary Physics and The Limits of Knowledge*. Rutgers Univ Press 2002 \$69.00 Cloth 0813530768.

CRC Handbook of Chemistry and Physics: A Ready-Reference Book of Chemical and Physical Data; Ed. by David R. Lide. CRC Press 2002 \$139.95 Cloth 0849304830.

Fritsch, Harald, 1943-. *Curvature of Spacetime: Newton, Einstein, and Gravitation*; Trans. by Karin Heusch. Columbia Univ Press 2002 \$29.95 Cloth 0231118201.

Doremus, R. H. *Diffusion of Reactive Molecules In Solids and Melts*. John Wiley 2002 \$94.95 Cloth 047138545x.

Jerome, Fred. *Einstein File: J. Edgar Hoover's Secret War Against The World's Most Famous Scientist*. St. Martin's/Trade 2002 \$27.95 Cloth 0312288565.

Allaby, Michael. *Encyclopedia of Weather and Climate*. Facts On File 2002 \$150.00 Cloth 0816040710.

Charap, John M. *Explaining The Universe: The New Age of Physics*. Princeton Univ Press 2002 \$29.95 Cloth 0691006636.

Malinowski, Edmund R. *Factor Analysis In Chemistry*. John Wiley 2002 \$99.95 Cloth 0471134791.

Peat, F. David, 1938-. *From Certainty to Uncertainty: The Story of Science and Ideas in the Twentieth Century*. Joseph Henry 2002 \$24.95 Cloth 0309076412.

Geosphere-biosphere Interactions and Climate; Ed. by Lennart O. Bengtsson. Cambridge Univ Press 2001 \$75.00 Cloth 0521782384.

Global Climate Change; Ed. by Sharon L. Spray. Rowman & Littlefield 2002 \$60.00 Cloth 0742522202.

Handbook of Physics; Ed. by Walter Benenson. Springer-Verlag 2002 \$49.95 Cloth 0387952691.

Lewis, Richard J. *Hazardous Chemicals Desk Reference*. John Wiley 2002 \$175.00 Cloth 0471441651.

Rigden, John S. *Hydrogen: The Essential Element*. Harvard Univ Press 2002 \$28.00 Cloth 0674007387.

Plotnitsky, Arkady. *Knowable and the Unknowable: Modern Science, Nonclassical Thought, and the "Two Cultures."* Univ of Michigan Press 2002 \$60.00 Cloth 0472097970.

Levy Statistics and Laser Cooling: How Rare Events Bring Atoms to Rest; Francois Bardou...et al. Cambridge Univ Press 2002 \$90.00 Cloth 0521808219.

Clegg, Brian. *Light Years and Time Travel: An Exploration of Mankind's Enduring Fascination with Light*. John Wiley 2002 \$24.95 Cloth 0471211826.

Collings, Peter J., 1947-. *Liquid Crystals: Nature's Delicate Phase of Matter*. Princeton Univ Press 2002 \$29.95 Cloth 0691086729.

Segre, Gino. *Matter of Degrees: What Temperature Reveals About the Past and Future of Our Species, Planet, and Universe*. Viking 2002 \$24.95 Cloth 0670031011.

Valeur, Bernard, 1944-. *Molecular Fluorescence: Principles and Applications*. Wiley-VCH 2002 \$110.00 Cloth 352729919x.

Leach, Andrew R. *Molecular Modelling: Principles and Applications*. Prentice Hall 2001 \$78.00 Paper 0582382106.

Li, Jie Jack. *Name Reactions: A Collection of Detailed Reaction Mechanisms*. Springer-Verlag 2002 \$79.95 Cloth 3540430245.

Emsley, John. *Nature's Building Blocks: An A-Z Guide to the Elements*. Oxford Univ Press 2001 \$29.95 Cloth 0198503415.

Nucleus: A Trip into the Heart of Matter; Ray Mackintosh ... et al. Johns Hopkins Univ Press 2001 \$29.95 Cloth 0801868602.

Blow, David. *Outline of Crystallography for Biologists*. Oxford Univ Press 2002 \$40.00 Paper 0198510519.

Close, Frank. *Particle Odyssey: A Journey to the Heart of the Matter*. Oxford Univ Press 2002 \$45.00 Cloth 0198504861.

Odenwald, Sten F. *Patterns in the Void: Why Nothing is Important*. Westview 2002 \$27.00 Cloth 0813339383.

Houghton, John. *Physics of Atmospheres*. Cambridge Univ Press 2002 \$95.00 Cloth 0521804566.

Hache, Alain, 1970-. *Physics of Hockey*. Johns Hopkins Univ Press 2002 \$24.95 Cloth 0801870712.

Stuart, Barbara (Barbara H.) *Polymer Analysis*. John Wiley 2002 \$105.00 Cloth 0471899267.

Baiulescu, George. *Quality and Reliability in Analytical Chemistry*. CRC Press 2001 \$54.95 Paper 0849323762.

Sewell, Geoffrey L. *Quantum Mechanics and Its Emergent Macrophysics*. Princeton Univ Press 2002 \$65.00 Cloth 0691058326.

Polkinghorne, J. C., 1930-. *Quantum Theory: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford Univ Press 2002 \$9.95 Paper 0192802526.

Stevermer, Amy J. *Recent Advances and Issues In Meteorology*. Oryx 2002 \$49.95 Cloth 1573563013.

Cox, John. *Storm Watchers: The Turbulent History of Weather Prediction from Franklin's Kite to El Niño*. John Wiley 2002 \$24.95 Cloth 047138108x.

Supramolecular Organization and Materials Design; Ed. by W.

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Lost in Austin — Antiquarian Booksellers

by **Thomas W. Leonhardt** (St. Edward's University, Scarborough-Phillips Library) <leonhard@libr.stedwards.edu>

"The most important single aspect of the dealer-customer relationship is the gradual development of friendship and rapport. The buying of books is a unique type of transaction, unlike the purchase of almost any other commodity." **Robert A. Wilson**, *Modern Book Collecting*, p. 65 (NY: Alfred A. Knopf, 1980).

Wilson is speaking specifically of the relationship between a private collector and his supplier but his advice applies equally to librarians charged with building fine library collections that have depth as well as breadth. Those librarians who feel that close relationships between librarians and vendors would do well to reconsider, especially when it comes to buying out-of-print scholarly books, many of which might be considered rare simply because scholarly books are issued in such short runs. Parenthetically, it seems that all else being equal, librarians are better off selecting vendors whom they trust and with whom they can develop a mutually beneficial business relationship.

When selecting a book jobber for a library, many factors should be considered beyond discount. That is why it is important to understand the hidden costs in library work. I prefer the jobber who becomes an extension of the acquisitions department. That means that there must be a comfortable working relationship between the company's sales representative and with those behind the scenes people at both ends of the operation, those in the library and



those at the company's offices. It is important that an atmosphere of trust and collegiality exists for the sake of both parties.

This trust and collegiality is even more important when using an antiquarian bookseller to find those books that are needed to add depth to one's collection or just to find out-of-print titles on a general desiderata list. These can be two separate functions but a good antiquarian bookseller can help you meet both needs and a very good one becomes an extension of your staff in no uncertain terms. For the work done, that is, identifying and supplying a title that the library needs, the bookseller is paid. If performance is not satisfactory (you need to determine before the fact what this means and come to an understanding with the private contractor, the antiquarian), then the relationship is severed.

The first library job I had was as a page in the **Rare Books and Special Collections Department (RBSC)** of the Doe Library at the **University of California, Berkeley**. Under the studied tutelage of **Mrs. Leslie Clarke**, the scope of my duties grew over a period of three and a half years so that when I left, brand new M.L.S. in hand, in 1973, I had learned more than I knew at the time. Two things I learned, among the many, were the value of an antiquarian book seller and the value of a good antiquarian catalogue. It is often the things we learn unconsciously that we absorb most thoroughly and keep with us long after the experience. Let me offer a couple of examples.

Mrs. Clarke (for that is what we called her) had a variety of visitors. I don't know what the budget was for the **RBSC** but I think it was relatively healthy. We had a standing order for all **Black Sparrow Press** publications and not the trade release but the limited, signed editions, this in support of a wonderful collection of West Coast poetry. **Mrs. Clarke** even had a poetry consultant to help with selection, the late **Robert Duncan**, complete with cape and black armband signifying his distaste for the war in Viet Nam. I was formerly introduced to him once but I thought that I had known him for a long time thanks to his notebooks that had been donated to the **RBSC** and that lay in gray Hollinger boxes in the vault, a dark, cool, closed stacks area of the Doe. The notebooks were so open and personal that I soon closed the one box and never opened another.

Another of **Mrs. Clarke's** visitors was **Bernard "Bernie" Rosenthal**, an antiquarian from San Francisco and a scholar in his own right and in the tradition of his book selling family. Sometimes before and sometimes after meeting with **Mrs. Clarke**, **Mr. Rosenthal** would hunt through our card catalogue with its extra tracings for printer, date, place, and illustrator. After double-checking our entries, he would then produce an illuminated manuscript page, for example, as something that would add depth to the collection.

That practice seemed odd to me at first, maybe a conflict of interest for a book seller to tell us that we needed something that he had for sale. I don't think it was that way at all, now that I think about it. It was more of a service. Here is something that you collect and you have nothing from this period or this place or this language on hand. He was looking after her library's interest and his own at the same time and in a scholarly, collegial, and highly civilized manner. They were professionals who knew how to conduct good business and themselves. I miss that atmosphere but I cling to the memories and sometimes wonder where I would be had I followed my dream of becoming a rare books librarian.

I also learned the value of scholarly antiquarian catalogues and that at least some of them were compiled by librarians, for example those from **Warren Howell Books** in San Francisco. But most booksellers must do their own cataloging and have their own reference collections to help them identify what it is they have to sell and how to present it to librarians and book collectors so that they will learn what they don't already own and understand why they should buy it. I don't remember if we cataloged, in turn, the catalogues from **Howell's**, but we did keep and catalog those from **Maggs** and from **Quaritch** and a handful of others.

Let me give you an example of a modern antiquarian with an M.L.S. from **UCLA**, **Jeff Weber** (a third generation librarian and son of **David Weber**, director emeritus from **Stanford**). The catalogue is **A Bookseller's Cabinet: Mostly Bibliography**, **Jeff Weber • Rare Books** (Catalogue 19: Bibliography and Scholarship) 1992. "[Item] 33 **BLADES**, **William**. The Enemies of Books. With a preface by **Richard Garnett**. Illustrated by **Louis Gunnis** and **H. E. Butler**. London: **Elliot Stock**, 1891. Tall 8vo. Xxvi, 117 pp. Frontispiece, 26 illustrations. Red cloth, t.e.g. Very good, bright copy. **FIRST EDITION**. **Blades** first discusses the major destroyers of books: fire, water, heat, dust and neglect, the bookworm and other vermin; and then devotes a chapter each to bookbinders, and collectors as destroyers of books; and concludes with an anecdote of a book-sale in Derbyshire."

Another librarian bookseller is **Michael Hackenberg** who also worked with **Mrs. Clarke** when I did and who was a library school classmate who stayed on after his M.L.S. to earn his Ph.D. If ever there was a scholar who loved books, it was **Michael**, the only person I know who complained about not being able to work on a holiday. He was deep into several boxes of French Revolution pamphlets and didn't want to break his rhythm for something as silly as Labor Day or whatever holiday it was. **Michael** taught at the **University of Chicago** until it decided that it didn't need a library school (Schools of Information Science had not yet hatched). He decided that he didn't need one either and became a scholarly bookseller. The tenure he

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Jones. Cambridge Univ Press 2002 \$110.00 Cloth 0521662400.

Davis, Stephen H., 1939-. *Theory of Solidification*. Cambridge Univ Press 2001 \$75.00 Cloth 0521650801.

Conant, Jennet. *Tuxedo Park: A Wall Street Tycoon and the Secret Palace of Science that Changed the Course of World War II*. Simon & Schuster 2002 \$26.00 Cloth 0684872870.

Simon, Bart, 1966-. *Undead Science: Science Studies and the Afterlife of Cold Fusion*. Rutgers Univ Press 2002 \$60.00 Cloth 0813531535.

Chown, Marcus. *Universe Next Door: The Making of Tomorrow's Science*. Oxford Univ Press 2002 \$26.00 Cloth 0195143825.

Batten, Frank, 1927-. *Weather Channel: The Improbable Rise of a Media Phenomenon*. Harvard Business School 2002 \$29.95 Cloth 1578515599.

Wildlife Responses to Climate Change: North American Case Studies; Ed. by Stephen H. Schneider. Island Press 2002 \$27.50 Paper 1559639253. 🐾